

This image shows a blank, aged, cream-colored page, likely an endpaper or flyleaf of a book. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some minor creases and discoloration, characteristic of old paper. The right edge of the page shows the binding of the book, with a dark, possibly black, inner cover material visible. There is no text or other markings on the page.

RAMBLES IN THE TROPICS.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CITY IN SOUTHERN MEXICO.

Morelia, the Ancient Valladolid Capital of the State of Michoacan—Some Interesting Facts.

(Special Correspondence of the RECORD-UNION.)

MORELIA, March 8, 1896.

For one who has never traveled in Mexico, it requires some effort to realize that its Capital, the ancient Valladolid, is not the town with which the country, but that there are scores of other cities far more interesting and at least thirty or forty that rank in population and importance with Indianapolis, Kansas City, Topeka, Detroit, Albany and other American cities of that ilk. Paris may be France, but the City of Mexico is no more Mexico than Washington is the United States.

An all-day ride from the National Capital, via the Mexican National Railroad, over the main ridge of the Sierra Madre, past Toluca and down the western slope of the great cordillera which forms the backbone of the continent, brings one to the very heart of Michoacan. Morelia is but one of the many curious towns of large size but lately reached by railway, and there are others of equal importance remote from any steam-track line.

Leaving the city of Mexico early in the morning, you arrive at Morelia after dark and take the *tramvia* to a hotel. A distinctive peculiarity of Mexican cities far from the capital is that they are invariably located on the remote outskirts of every city—by order of the Government, the people being too much afraid of the Spaniards and too distrustful of the American employees to permit closer proximity. But *tramvias* (street-cars imported from the United States) are everywhere, and Morelia being as recent an improvement as the railroad.

Early in the morning the bells of the great cathedral were awakened, especially if it happens to be on Sunday, but before noon you will come to the conclusion that church bells ring here all the time, or at any rate, that the Government does not hold the ropes here and regulate the amount of ringing, as in the city of Mexico.

The first thing to be done, after the manner of the Mexicans, is to get "coffee," served in your room without extra charge, and accompanied by a small loaf of bread, minus butter. If you are so unfashionable as to desire a cup of coffee, you will be obtained for a small consideration from the astonished waiter, who marvels within himself at the greediness of *Los Americanos*. The light breakfast of coffee and bread, and the breakfast proper served between 11 o'clock A. M. and 2 P. M.

Strolling into the principal street, called the *Calle de la Independencia*, you soon discover that Morelia has not been overrated, though its praises have been sounded in your ears ever since you reached the borderland. It is called "the City of Flowers," and is certainly a charming old town—a city set on a hill that cannot be hid, in the midst of most delightful rural surroundings. Its one-story houses, embowered in vines and flowers, look older than they really are, being mostly built of a pinkish trachyte (quarried about a mile from the city), which takes on a weather-beaten aspect in a few years' time. The city was founded about the year 1530, by the famous Spanish *Don* Antonio de Mendoza, and for nearly three hundred years was called Valladolid, until changed to its present name, in 1828, in honor of the patriot-cavalier, Morelia.

As a city of churches, Morelia rivals Queretaro and Guadalajara, and notwithstanding the decadence of papal power in the republic, is still noted for its devotion to Roman Catholicism. It is a city of respect, for the foreigner to lift his hat on meeting church dignitaries in the streets, and it is just as well to "do as the Romans," and drop down upon your knees when the consecrated Host is carried by, or else turn down some other street forthwith. We are told that not a few Protestants have been killed, and that some have been killed. The late Methodist Bishop, Gilbert Haven—who was as rabid and unreasonable in his own peculiar belief as any Catholic priest—relates that a few years ago an American shoemaker was working at his bench just inside the door of his house, when the tinkling of a bell announced that a priest was coming bearing the Host. A Mexican happened to step into this doorway to avoid the procession, and kneeling upon the floor, turned around to watch what the shoemaker was doing. The latter had dropped his tools and was kneeling on his bench. The zealous Catholic demanded that he should get down upon the floor, like himself. This the American refused to do, whereupon the Mexican drew his ready dirk and stabbed him to the heart. Quickly the news spread through the town, and it was only at the risk of his life that an American clergyman resident in the city could give the murdered man Christian burial. Within the last five years there have been many cases of this kind, and it is still stronger here than in any other Mexican State, there is little open show of hostility to the priest, and on your journey hither, it happened that the Bishop occupied the same car. At every station came off the car and the bystanders crowded into the car to greet the Bishop, as if their lives depended upon their alacrity; and quite likely most of them thought that to neglect showing this mark of respect would imperil their own happiness.

One is sure to linger long at the great stone cathedral. It is one of the most famous churches in the republic, built in the Spanish Renaissance style, and occupying an entire block. Its dark-roofed granite has a solid and indestructible aspect, and its twin towers, 200 feet high, are airy and well proportioned. The interior architecture is Doric, severe and majestic, and an exquisite wood-carving ornament the choir, and formerly the passage-way from this to the high altar was railed with solid silver—all of which with most of the other treasures, the Liberals confiscated. The silver doors on the tabernacles of the side chapels still remain, and the fonts are of the same material. It is said that this edifice received more than \$400,000 during a single century from the neighboring mines of Oaximatan. A magnificent organ, built in 1732, at a cost of \$20,000, is still in use.

Several of the old convent churches have become so utterly wrecked since the Government seized them, that one may see ragged soldiers quartered in ancient vaults and horses stabled where jeweled altars used to stand. The oldest in Morelia, the convent (the oldest in Morelia, dated from 1536) is now a dismal ruin. A former Jesuit institution, whose noble architecture Baron von Humboldt deemed worthy of special mention, has been turned into a correctional school. Part of the convent of San Juan de Dios (Saint John of God) is now occupied by a police-hut of the same order. Another wing, after serving some years as an iron foundry, has become an extension of the Hotel Michoacan. The former monastery of Santa Catalina, from which the gentle sisterhood were ejected before daylight one morning in the spring of 1893, by the "Liberal" reformers—is occupied by the first battalion of Federal infantry, and so on to the end of the chapter.

One marvels at the size and massiveness of these ancient convents and monasteries. They cover acres of ground and occupy almost every available corner. Imagination can scarcely portray the city as it must have appeared thirty years ago, when the Church of Rome ruled everything. Its population has never exceeded 30,000, yet the list of former churches and conventual institutions foots up to about one for every three hundred inhabitants. It is impossible to estimate the wealth once possessed by these establishments; unquestionably it was enormous, but the people at large were correspondingly poorer than now. The Bishop's palace, for example, which is more than two hundred years old, and still in use, is said to have cost more than \$80,000 in labor alone, for human labor in Mexico is naively cheap. The whole city is undermired by subterranean passages, leading between churches, convents, monasteries and the inquisition. When Maximilian's cause—which was inspired and upheld by the church party—began to decline at the national capital, the Emperor came here for sympathy and succor. Doubtless in Michoacan and elsewhere the Romanists would be glad to have the old regime restored, and it is not unlikely, in this land of frequent overturnings, that the anti-church party, whose star is just now on the wane, may suddenly find itself in eclipse.

THE FARM.

MATTERS OF INTEREST UPON VARIOUS TOPICS.

Letter Concerning Diseases in Sheep—Remedies for Insect Pests—Commission Methods.

ENS. RECORD-UNION: Some of your late issues made mention of the unaccountable cause of deaths occurring among sheep in Douglas county, Oregon. Ever since I watched your columns, anxious to find some suggestions, if not discussion, upon a subject so important. Although an expert in breeding of sheep, and acquainted with the diseases those animals are subject to, I cannot form an idea regarding the fatal disease known in the Oregon flocks. Having no knowledge of the locality where these sheep were raised, I am unable to form an opinion.

If the land is marshy, where probably horse or ground-clovers are found, it is likely that the disease may be attributed to it, but to arrive at a conclusion it requires a great deal of patience and observation, and if flockmasters are too careless or indolent to give their time to an investigation they will suffer and lose money by their neglect. Marshy or any low-lying lands where water lodges and very gradually evaporates, often cause the disease known as *flu*, in sheep, which, as yet, no cure has been discovered. Sheep attacked by these parasites fatten in the first stages of the disease, and should be disposed of when in such condition (at this time the meat is wholesome); but if allowed to grow they will fall rapidly, and drop down dead. There is no space in this paper for a detailed description of the disease, and not being acquainted with the nature of the pasture, I can not say what the disease may be, nor form an idea as to the cause. Flockmasters should on such occasions, very carefully examine the liver of the sheep—the seat of the *flu*—but this should be done with a microscope. The parasites, if detected by an expert, but these unacquainted with the disease, cannot be detected by the presence of the parasites with the naked eye. Sheep pastured near the seashore are apt to become diseased by what is known as the coast disease. Foot-rot, scab and catarrh sheep are subject to; but none of these are fatal unless by shameful neglect and improper treatment. I am, however, from a communication from the honorable Commissioner of the Agricultural Department, it appears as if *flu* is prevalent in the State of Oregon, and that the disease is spreading rapidly.

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THE FARM.

MATTERS OF INTEREST UPON VARIOUS TOPICS.

Letter Concerning Diseases in Sheep—Remedies for Insect Pests—Commission Methods.

ENS. RECORD-UNION: Some of your late issues made mention of the unaccountable cause of deaths occurring among sheep in Douglas county, Oregon. Ever since I watched your columns, anxious to find some suggestions, if not discussion, upon a subject so important. Although an expert in breeding of sheep, and acquainted with the diseases those animals are subject to, I cannot form an idea regarding the fatal disease known in the Oregon flocks. Having no knowledge of the locality where these sheep were raised, I am unable to form an opinion.

If the land is marshy, where probably horse or ground-clovers are found, it is likely that the disease may be attributed to it, but to arrive at a conclusion it requires a great deal of patience and observation, and if flockmasters are too careless or indolent to give their time to an investigation they will suffer and lose money by their neglect. Marshy or any low-lying lands where water lodges and very gradually evaporates, often cause the disease known as *flu*, in sheep, which, as yet, no cure has been discovered. Sheep attacked by these parasites fatten in the first stages of the disease, and should be disposed of when in such condition (at this time the meat is wholesome); but if allowed to grow they will fall rapidly, and drop down dead. There is no space in this paper for a detailed description of the disease, and not being acquainted with the nature of the pasture, I can not say what the disease may be, nor form an idea as to the cause. Flockmasters should on such occasions, very carefully examine the liver of the sheep—the seat of the *flu*—but this should be done with a microscope. The parasites, if detected by an expert, but these unacquainted with the disease, cannot be detected by the presence of the parasites with the naked eye. Sheep pastured near the seashore are apt to become diseased by what is known as the coast disease. Foot-rot, scab and catarrh sheep are subject to; but none of these are fatal unless by shameful neglect and improper treatment. I am, however, from a communication from the honorable Commissioner of the Agricultural Department, it appears as if *flu* is prevalent in the State of Oregon, and that the disease is spreading rapidly.

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